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## MARCH RED MEAT PRODUCTION

**West Virginia -- Commercial red meat production** during March 2006 totaled 400,000 pounds, the same as last year. This is 13 percent above the February 2006 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

**Commercial cattle slaughter** totaled 589,000 pounds live weight, down 5 percent from March 2005. Cattle slaughter totaled 500 head, down 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 1,078 pounds, was up 127 pounds from a year ago.

**Commercial calf slaughter** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 124,000 pounds live weight, up 2 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 400 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 290 pounds, was up 45 pounds from the previous year.

**Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**United States -- Commercial red meat production** totaled 4.11 billion pounds in March, up 6 percent from the 3.88 billion pounds produced in March 2005.

**Beef production**, at 2.21 billion pounds, was 8 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.85 million head, up 5 percent from March 2005. The

average live weight was up 36 pounds from the previous year, at 1,273 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 13.3 million pounds, slightly above March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 59,200 head, down 13 percent from March 2005. The average live weight was 42 pounds above last year, at 370 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.87 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.23 million head, 3 percent above March 2005. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 272 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 18.2 million pounds, was down 6 percent from March 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 249,700 head, 11 percent below last year. The average live weight was 145 pounds, up 6 pounds from March a year ago.

**January to March 2006 commercial red meat production** was 11.5 billion pounds, up 5 percent from 2005. Accumulated beef production was up 6 percent from last year, veal was down 3 percent, pork was up 4 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up slightly.

**March 2005** contained 23 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

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## POULTRY PRODUCTION & VALUE

**West Virginia -- The combined value of production and value of sales** from broilers, eggs, turkeys, and the value of sales from chickens in 2005, was \$222.7 million, up 2 percent from the combined value of \$219.0 million in 2004. Of the combined total, 73 percent was from broilers, 14 percent from eggs, 12 percent from turkeys and less than 1 percent from sales of other chickens.

There were 88.5 million **broilers produced** in West Virginia during 2005, 2 percent more than in 2004. Total live weight was 362.9 million pounds, up from 354.2 million pounds in 2004. Value of production totaled \$163.3 million, up 5 percent from \$155.8 million in 2004. The average live weight equivalent price of 45.0 cents per pound was up 1.0 cent from the previous year.

**Turkeys raised** in West Virginia totaled 2.4 million, down 25 percent from 2004. Total live weight was 60.2 million pounds, down 15 percent from 2004. Value of production totaled \$27.7 million, down 7 percent from 2004. The average live weight equivalent price was 46.0 cents per pound, up 4.0 cents from the 2004 price.

**Egg production** in West Virginia totaled 261 million eggs during 2005, down 4 percent from 273 million eggs in 2004. The average price per dozen was 140.0 cents, down 2.0 cents from 2004. The total value of production was \$30.5 million, down 6 percent from \$32.3 million in 2004.

The **number of chickens sold** (excluding broilers) totaled 1.62 million head, down 2 percent of the number sold in 2004. The number of pounds sold was 12.5 million pounds, up 1 percent from 2004. Value of sales totaled \$1.2 million, up 5 percent from 2004. Prices averaged 9.4 cents per pound, compared with 9.1 cents in 2004.

**United States -- The combined value of production** from broilers, eggs, turkeys, and the value of sales from chickens in 2005, was \$28.2 billion, down 2 percent from the \$28.9 billion in 2004. Of the combined total, 74 percent was from broilers, 14 percent from eggs, 11 percent from turkeys, and less than 1 percent from chickens.

The value of **broilers produced** during 2005 was \$20.9 billion, up 2 percent from 2004. The total number of broilers produced in 2005 was 8.87 billion, up 1 percent from 2004. The total amount of live weight broilers produced in 2005 was 47.9 billion pounds, up 5 percent from 2004. The 2005 average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 43.6 cents per pound, compared with 44.6 cents in 2004.

Value of all **egg production** in 2005 was \$4.04 billion, down 24 percent from the \$5.30 billion in 2004. Egg production totaled 90.0 billion eggs, up 1 percent from the 89.1 billion eggs produced in 2004. In 2005, all eggs averaged 53.9 cents per dozen, compared with 71.4 cents in 2004.

The value of **turkeys produced** during 2005 was \$3.23 billion, up 5 percent from the \$3.07 billion the previous year. Turkey production in 2005 totaled 7.21 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the 7.30 billion pounds produced in 2004. The average price received by producers during 2005 was 44.9 cents per pound, compared with 42.0 cents in 2004.

The value of **sales from chickens** (excluding broilers) in 2005 was \$64.6 million, up 12 percent from the \$57.6 million a year ago. Prices averaged 6.5 cents per pound, compared with 5.8 cents in 2004. The number of chickens sold in 2005 totaled 193 million, up 1 percent from the total sold during the previous year.

#### MEAT ANIMAL PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, AND INCOME

**West Virginia -- The 2005 gross income** from cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs was \$124.1 million, up 27 percent from the 2004 gross income of \$97.6 million. Gross income from cattle and calves was up 29 percent, hogs and pigs down 10 percent, and sheep and lambs down 7 percent from 2004.

**Total 2005 cash receipts** from marketings for all meat animals were \$117.5 million, up 29 percent from the cash receipts of \$91.4 million in 2004. Cattle and calves accounted for 97 percent of the total cash receipts, hogs and pigs 1 percent, and sheep and lambs 2 percent.

**Production of meat animals** in West Virginia during 2005 totaled 140.2 million pounds, up 10 percent from 2004. Cattle and calves production increased 11 percent, hogs and pigs production decreased 24 percent, and sheep and lambs production increased 5 percent. The value of production of meat animals was up 18 percent to \$103.8 million compared to \$88.2 million in 2004.

**Cattle and calves:** Cash receipts from marketings of cattle and calves increased 30 percent during 2005. Receipts totaled \$113.8 million compared with \$87.4 million in 2004. All cattle and calf marketings during 2005 reached 141.6 million pounds, up from 116.6 million pounds in 2004. The 2005 annual average price of cattle at \$72.00 per 100 pounds live weight was up \$4.80 from the 2004 price. The average price for calves at \$112.00 per 100 pounds live weight was up \$11.00 from the 2004 price.

**Hogs and pigs:** Cash receipts from marketings of hogs and pigs were \$1.6 million during 2005, down 11 percent from the 2004 cash receipts of \$1.8 million. Marketings of 3.4 million pounds during 2005 were 13 percent below the 2004 total marketings of 3.9 million pounds. The annual average price per 100 pounds live weight at \$46.60 increased 50 cents from the 2004 price.

**Sheep and lambs:** Cash receipts from marketings of sheep and lambs in 2005 totaled \$2.1 million, down 5 percent from the 2004 cash receipts of \$2.2 million. The average price of sheep in 2005 was \$41.80 per 100 pounds of live weight, up from \$36.90 in 2004. Lamb prices increased from \$102.00 in 2004 to \$110.00 in 2005. Marketings of sheep and lambs at 2.3 million pounds were down 15 percent from 2004.

**United States -- The 2005 gross income** from cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs for the U.S. totaled \$65.3 billion, up 4 percent from 2004. Gross income increased for cattle and calves, hogs and

pigs, and sheep and lambs. Cattle and calves increased 4 percent, hogs and pigs increased 5 percent, and sheep and lambs increased 10 percent.

**Total 2005 cash receipts** from marketings of meat animals increased 4 percent to \$64.8 billion. Cattle and calves accounted for 76 percent of this total, hogs and pigs 23 percent, and sheep and lambs 1 percent. Production increased for all cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs. Average prices were up for all three species.

**Cattle and Calves:** Cash receipts from marketings of cattle and calves increased from \$47.5 billion in 2004 to \$49.2 in 2005, a 4 percent increase. All cattle and calf marketings totaled 53.1 billion pounds in 2005, down 2 percent from 2004. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for cattle was \$89.70, an increase of \$3.90 from 2004. For calves, the annual average price increased from \$119.00 to \$135.00.

**Hogs and Pigs:** Cash receipts from hogs and pigs totaled \$15.0 billion during 2005, up 5 percent from 2004. Marketings totaled 28.5 billion pounds in 2005, up 3 percent from 2004. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight increased from \$49.30 in 2004 to \$50.20 in 2005.

**Sheep and Lambs:** Cash receipts from marketings of sheep and lambs in 2005 were \$570 million, up 10 percent from 2004. Marketings increased slightly to 571 million pounds. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for sheep increased from \$38.80 in 2004 to \$45.10 in 2005 while for lambs, the annual average price increased from \$101.00 to \$110.00.

#### MAY CROP PRODUCTION

**West Virginia -- On farm hay stocks**, as of May 1, 2006, totaled 214,000 tons. This is 2,000 tons more than what was on hand last year at this time, and 23,000 tons above May 1 stocks on hand in 2004. The disappearance of all hay stocks on farms from December 1, 2005 - May 1, 2006, was 770,000 tons, 6 percent less than the 2004 crop disappearance of 818,000 tons for the same period.

**Final 2005 burley tobacco** production totaled 680,000 pounds, down 1.01 million pounds or 60 percent from 2004. Yield per acre averaged 1,700 pounds, up 400 pounds from 2004. Area harvested in 2005 totaled 400 acres, down 900 acres from the previous year. The 2005 season average price for tobacco was \$1.550 per pound, down from the 2004 price of \$1.970. The value of production totaled \$1.05 million, down 68 percent from the 2004 value of \$3.33 million.

**United States -- Winter wheat** production is forecast at 1.32 billion bushels, down 12 percent from 2005. Based on May 1 conditions, the U. S. yield is forecast at

42.4 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels less than last year. Grain area totals 31.2 million acres, down 8 percent from last season.

**All on farm hay stocks** on May 1, 2006 totaled 21.3 million tons, down 23 percent from the previous year. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 2005 - May 1, 2006, totaled 83.7 million tons, 3 percent less than the disappearance of 86.8 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

Thirty-six of the 48 reporting States had lower May 1 hay stocks than a year ago. Hay stocks in most of these States were also below year ago levels for December 1 which resulted in the lower May 1 stocks. Drought conditions during the summer months of 2005 in the central Corn Belt and southern Great Plains States resulted in increased supplemental feeding of hay, reducing the December 1 stocks. The largest decreases in May 1 stocks compared with last year occurred in Texas and Missouri, where drought conditions continued through the winter and this spring. As a result of the drought, pasture growth has been stunted and cattle producers have been forced to continue heavy feeding from already short hay supplies. Many producers in Texas began purchasing hay from other States in February.

Hay stocks increased from last year across the northern Great Plains and upper Mississippi Valley States. Montana, Minnesota, and North Dakota showed the largest increases, as all three States experienced mild winter conditions that reduced the amount of supplemental feeding required. Additionally, hay production during 2005 was a record high in Montana and the second highest on record in North Dakota, which significantly contributed to the high volume of hay stocks in those States.

**U.S. tobacco** production for 2005 is revised up 1 percent from the January preliminary estimate. Harvested acreage is virtually unchanged, while the average yield increased 24 pounds per acre. Total production, at 647 million pounds, is down 27 percent from 2004. Growers harvested 298,080 acres in 2005, down 27 percent from the previous year and the lowest harvested acreage on record. Acreage of the 2005 crop was heavily impacted by the Fair and Equitable Tobacco Reform Act of 2004 which eliminated the tobacco quota program and price supports. **Burley** production, which accounted for 99 percent of all light air-cured tobacco, is revised up 4 percent from the January preliminary estimate of 195 million pounds. At 203 million pounds, this is 30 percent below 2004 when 292 million pounds were produced. Producers of burley tobacco harvested 100,150 acres in 2005, down 35 percent from the previous year. Yields averaged 2,031 pounds per acre, 123 pounds greater than 2004. Kentucky, the leading producer of burley tobacco, produced 144 million pounds, 71 percent of all burley grown in the United States.

**MILK PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION,  
AND INCOME**

**West Virginia -- Milk production** totaled 194 million pounds during 2005, the same as 2004. The average number of milk cows was 13,000 head, the same as 2004. Average milk production per cow was 14,923 pounds, the same as 2004.

**Cash receipts from marketings** of milk during 2005 totaled \$29.8 million, down 5 percent from the 2004 cash receipts. Producer returns averaged \$15.60 per hundredweight, down 90 cents from 2004. Milk marketed by producers totaled 191 million pounds in 2005, the same as in 2004. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers as well as milk sold directly to consumers.

**United States -- Milk production** increased 3.5 percent in 2005 to 177 billion pounds. The rate per cow, at 19,576 pounds, was 609 pounds above 2004. The annual average number of milk cows on farms was 9.04 million head, up 29,000 head from 2004.

**Cash receipts from marketings** of milk during 2005 totaled \$26.7 billion, 2.4 percent lower than 2004. Producer returns averaged \$15.20 per hundredweight, 5.8 percent below 2004. Marketings totaled 176 billion pounds, 3.6 percent above 2004. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers and milk sold directly to consumers.

An estimated 1.08 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 2.4 percent less than 2004. Calves were fed 87 percent of this milk, with the remainder consumed in producer households.

**JUNE 2006 AGRICULTURAL SURVEY  
ANNOUNCEMENT**

The National Agricultural Statistics Service will be conducting the June Agricultural Survey from May 27 through June 14. Representatives from this office will be contacting farmers by telephone and personal interview. The information gathered is confidential and will be used to set State, Regional and National estimates of crops and grain stocks. Response to the survey is voluntary and farmers selected for the survey will be notified by mail. We depend on the cooperation of the producers in our sample. A high response rate will ensure that West Virginia agriculture is fully and accurately represented in the regional and national picture.

The results of this survey will be released beginning June 30. These results will appear in the July edition of the Mountain State Reporter. **Thank you for your cooperation.**

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April Red Meat Production  
Chicken & Eggs  
Poultry Slaughter  
June Crop Production  
Farm Labor  
Agricultural Chemical Usage

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